

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:JKAUFMANN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USNMR SHAPE

USLO SACLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 287222

EXDIS MIL ADDDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT OSLO 5984 ACTION SECSTATE INFO NATO
COPENHAGEN NOV 23.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 5984

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS USNMR SHAPE AND USLO SACLANT AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, NO

SUBJ: MILITARY ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION IN NORTHERN REGION

REFS: (A)STATE 283144, (B) USNATO 5859, (C) USNATO 4609,
(D) STATE 212905

1. SUMMARY: WE BELEIVE THE NORWEGIANS WILL UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT
DECISION TO PUT OFF NATO NORTH CAPE/KOLA PENINSULA BRIEFING BUT
THEY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THE BRIEFING TO HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED,
AND THEY WILL WAN IT TO BE HELD LATER. END SUMMARY.

2. MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL VIBE RECENTLY TOLD CHARGE THAT
GON MISSION NATO WAS AWARE BRIEFING WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION BUT
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MIGHT BE POSTPONED. CHARGE NOTED THAT POSTPONEMENT WAS NOT IN ANY

WAY INTENDED TO INDICATE A LESSENING OF ALLIANCE INTERESTS IN NORTHERN FLANK PROBLEMS. VIBE REPLIED THAT NORWEGIANS WERE RELAXED ABOUT IT AND THAT NORWAY'S NATO MISSION WAS RECOMMENDING THAT FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND BE PREPARED TO OUTLINE NORWAY'S NORTHERN PROBLEMS WITH THE SOVIETS AT THE DECEMBER NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING.

3. COMMENT: FROM THE NORWEGIAN STANDPOINT, A BRIEFING ON THE MILITARY REMINDER OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NORTHERN FLANK, AND AREA WHICH THE NORWEGIANS FEEL IS OFTEN NEGLECTED IN NATO THINKING AND PLANNING. HOPEFULLY, IT WOULD PROVIDE THEM ALSO WITH REASSURANCE OF THE COMMITMENT OF THE ALLIANCE TO ASSIST THEM THERE. ADDITIONALLY, THE BRIEFING WOULD CERTAINLY ASSIST NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THEIR OWN EVALUATIONS OF THE STRATEGIC SITUATION IN THE NORTH. THIS LATTER BENEFIT SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED, FOR THE PRINCIPAL ARGUMENT THE GOVERNMENT USED IN JUSTIFYING THIS YEAR'S INCREASED DEFENSE BUDGET, WHICH PASSED THE STORTING WITH BROAD SUPPORT LAST WEEK, WAS THE SOVIET THREAT IN THE NORTH. FOR THESE REASONS, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD SERVE OUR INTERESTS IN NORWAY IF THE BRIEFING, OR SOME COMPARABLE DEMONSTRATION OF ALLIANCE INTEREST IN THE NORTHERN FLANK, COULD BE HELD AT A LATER DATE. BREMER
UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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